Dear Jim,

11/7/75

The time I spend legs up licking stamps gives me a little more time for thinking. I thmink it is past time for a few preparations that may not be easy.

When I first spoke to Mo Waldron about PM and said that if I could not arrange the sale of subsidiary rights I'd like to let the wire services and a few papers with syndicates have copies and have a press conference for others. Once the Times put Crewdson on the story Mo is out. Earlier this week I asked him about contacting the wire services and he said Crewdson would. But I've not heard this from Crewdson. And time is getting short.

I do fear the book is too tough, even for today. The copout will be too complicated for the ancillary rights.

I can get the kids to deliver embargoed copies to the wire services either Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, whenever their classes permit.

But I think there should be an offbeat press conference on Friday or Saturday, billed as a backgrounding for Sunday release. With a decent press release and a little competitive interest it might work.

If so, the questions are hwere and now.

I don't think anyone will come up here. Vertainly not weekend TV crews.

I'll try to talk to Crewdson if he doesn't phone on Monday. I suspect he is not working in the office and may be checking some things out out of the office.

There should be some kind of backstop plan. The Post has shifted the story from Sussman, who felt lost and inadequate, to Lardner, who is already overworked.

If nothing else works I'll find the money for an inexpensive hotel room. Not the Mayflower. But downtown somewhere.

The timing of the McDonald operations is not good on this.

Crewdson, by the way, seems to be as good a person as he is a reporter.

I'll be speaking to those to whom I can. Meanwhile, my purpose in this is to ask you to think and see if you come up with any ideas.

If there is any response on selling rights, and to now there has been none, I did stipulate a press conference restricted to generalities aside from the announcement.

Best,